

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 CG-00
DLOS-09 OES-09 IO-13 ACDA-12 /102 W
-----037821 241622Z /50

O R 241523Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6199
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFLOK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3537

SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, NATO, PEPR, PINT, UR, NO
SUBJECT: SOVIETS PERSIST IN SHIP VIOLATIONS

REF: (A) OSLO 3503, (B) OSLO 3484, (C) STATE 179869 (NOTAL),
(D) OSLO 3245

1. ALL OSLO PRESS JULY 24 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO FOUR
EAST BLOC VIOLATIONS (THREE USSR SHIPS, ONE GDR SHIP) OF
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NORWEGIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS WHICH TOOK PLACE JULY 21-23.
THE SOVIET SHIP KANDALASJALES VIOLATED NORWEGIAN WATERS
TWICE ON JULY 21 OFF EAST FINNMARK AND WAS FINALLY ESCORTED
INTO INTERNATIONAL WATERS BY A NORWEGIAN NAVAL VESSEL. THE
KANDLALSJALES HAD CLAIMED ENGINE TROUBLE. ON JULY 22,
THE GDR 10,000 TON CARGO SHIP MANDFELD WAS OBSERVED
WITHIN THE FOUR-MILE LIMIT NEAR NORDKYN BUT MOVED

INTO INTERANTIONAL WATERS BEFORE IT COULD BE INTERCEPTED.
AND ON JULY 23 TWO SOVIET LUMBER CARRIERS ANCHORED
IN NORWEGIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS NEAR SOEROEYA AND
SIGNALLED THAT THEY WERE CONDUCTING AN EXERCISE AND
WERE, IN FACT, SEEN TO BE LOWERING EQUIPMENT INTO
THE SEA. BOTH SHIPS HAD MOVED INTO INTERNATIONAL
WATERS BY THE TIME NORWEGIAN NAVAL VESSELS ARRIVED.

2. THESE LATEST INCIDENTS OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER THE
SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S JULY 21 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER
FRYDENLUND DURING WHICH, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN SEVEN
DAYS, THEY DISCUSSED THE SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF NOR-
WEGIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. KIRICHENKO IS REPORTED TO
HAVE SAID THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE
OFFENDING SHIP CAPTAINS WHEN THEY REACHED PORT. TO
ROUND OUT LAST WEEK'S NARRATIVE, THE 20,000 KRONER FINE
LEVIED AGAINST THE SOVIET FREIGHTER IRTYSJES (OSLO 3503)
WAS PAID AND THE SHIP RELEASED FROM ITS VARDOE DETENTION.

3. THE SEEKEND INCURSIONS HAVE LED TO WIDESPREAD SPECULATION
AMONG MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMUNITY
(AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) AS TO WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE UP TO.
THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EAST GERMANS INTO
THE DRAMA ADDED ANOTHER DIMENSION TO WHAT IS FAST BECOMING
NUMBER ONE TOPIC OF THE OTHERWISE NEWS POOR SUMMER PERIOD.

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4. VARIOUS THORIES FOR THE SOVIET ACTIONS ARE NOW CIRCULATING.
ONE IS THAT THEY ARE RELATED TO THE PRESENCE IN TROMSO OF NATO'S
STANAVFORLANT, WHICH IS DUE TO HOLD EXERCISES THIS WEEK SOUTH OF
TROMSO (AND THEREFORE AWAY FROM THE AREA WHERE THE SHIP INCIDENTS
HAVE OCCURRED TO DATE). MINISTER OF LOS EVENSEN HAS TOLD US
THAT THE INCIDENTS COULD BE RELATED TO AN APPARENT HARDENING OF
THE SOVIETS' ATTITUDE TO THE SVALBARD FISHERIES PRESERVATION ZONE
(FPZ). AS WE HAVE REPORTED THE NORWEGIANS WERE ABLE TO INSPECT A
NUMBER OF SOVIET SHIPS IN THE FPZ LAST MONTH. HOWEVER, ACCORDING
TO EVENSEN THE SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY PROTESTED SUCH INSPECTIONS
(PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY WERE CAUGHT VIOLATING THE REGULATED MESH SIZE)
AND THIS MAY HAVE SOME RELATIONSHIP TO THE INCIDENTS. ANOTHER
POSSIBILITY IS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ATTEMPTING TO RETRIEVE LOST ELEC-
TRONIC INTELLIGENCE EQUIPMENT, WHILE OTHER OBSERVERS HAVE CHARACTER-
IZED THE EASTERN ACTIVITIES AS CLASSIC GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY.
FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND CONTINUES TO TRY TO KEEP A CALM LID
ON THE SITUATION WHILE OTHER SENIOR GON OFFICIALS IN GENERAL HAVE
REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING.

5. ATTORNEY GENERAL DORENFELDT HAS INSTRUCTED THE POLICE
TO GO ONE STEP BEYOND THEIR PRESENT PROCEDURES AND TO INSPECT
FOREIGN SHIPS WHICH VIOLATE NORWEGIAN WATERS AND IF THERE IS

SUSPICION OF CRIMINAL ACTS THE SHIP IS TO BE SEIZED AND
HEAVILY FINED. THE ENTIRE SUBJECT OF THE SHIP INCURSIONS IS
TO BE TAKEN UP AT AN EARLY CABINET MEETING.

6. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO BE AS PUZZLED AS THE NORWEGIANS
ABOUT THE POSSIBLE SOVIET MOTIVATION FOR THE CONTINUING VIOLATIONS.
AS USUAL SOVIET SABRE-RATTLING, IF THAT IS WHAT IT IS, IS
RAPIDLY BECOMING COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO JUDGE FROM THE RISING
TEMPERATURE OF THE NORWEGIAN PUBLIC'S MOOD AND
RESPONSE. ON THE FACE OF IT, THE LOST EQUIPMENT THEORY
WOULD SEEM TO BE THE MOST PLAUSIBLE BUT ONLY IF THE ITEMS
ADRIFT WERE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND/OR REVEALING
TECHNOLOGY. WE WOULD WELCOME ANYONE ELSE'S THOUGHTS.
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NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE (C) APPEARS TO BE INCORRECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO03537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-0523
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780727/aaaaawvx.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2332f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OSLO 3503, 78 OSLO 3484, 78 STATE 179869, 78 OSLO 3245
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1907958
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIETS PERSIST IN SHIP VIOLATIONS
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PINT, UR, NO, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2332f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014